

Appl. No. 09/575,145
Amdt. Dated October 6, 2004
Response to Office action of August 18, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated August 18, 2004.

AMENDMENTS

(1) Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to specify that the coded data is printed on the surface, such that an optical sensing device can generate indicating data when placed in an operative position relative to the form, and a computer system can determine a photograph identity and/or an action relating to the photograph using the indicating data. The indicating data comprises data regarding the identity of the form and data regarding the position of the sensing device relative to the form. This amendment serves to clarify the nature and function of the coded data, in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention (see page 13, lines 10-21; page 17, line 28 – page 18, line 4; Section 1.2 on pages 18 -24).

(2) Previous claims 19 – 44 have been deleted.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 102

The present invention relies on printing a digital photograph with coded data, whereby the coded data enables a user to interact with the photograph further. Typically, the photograph may be printed onto a form, with the form containing interactive “buttons”. These interactive buttons may, for example, allow a user to print further copies and/or select print options, which may include annotations of the photograph *etc.* Coded data on the form enables the user interaction via interactive buttons. As specified in claim 1, the coded data comprises data indicative of an identity of the surface (*e.g.* form) *and of at least one reference point on the surface*. Since the coded data includes data indicative of at least one reference point on the surface, it enables a sensing device to determine its position relative to the surface. Once the sensing device “knows” what surface it is interacting with and where on that surface it is interacting, a computer system can identify what action is being requested by the sensing device. For example, simply by knowing the position of the sensing device on a particular surface, the computer system can identify a specific action, such as “Print 6” x 4” photograph of image X” or “Print 12” x 8” photograph of image Y with date/time information”.

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Tabata (US 6,537,324)

Tabata describes a document management system in which a "medium form", having a two-dimension bar code, is generated. The Examiner is referred to column 6, lines 31-34 where it is stated:

... medium form information is prepared by developing HTML source code of a hypertext, generating a text section as image extraction information, encoding the HTML source code of the hypertext to a two-dimensional bar code ...

Hence, the two-dimensional bar codes in Tabata directly encode HTML source code. By contrast, in the present invention, the coded data simply enables a sensing device to determine a document identity and its position relative to that document. The coded data does not in itself contain any information relating to a photograph or even an HTML link to that photograph. This crucial difference significantly increases the power and versatility of the present invention, as compared to the system described in Tabata, because unique HTML source codes need not be encoded and printed as bar codes.

It is submitted that the present invention is not anticipated by the disclosure of Tabata, because Tabata does not provide documents having coded data which enables a sensing device to determine its position relative to the document.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

It is further submitted that the present invention is not obvious in view of Tabata or any of the other cited documents, because, as explained above, the method of the present invention relies on an entirely different way of identifying an action in a computer system using the coded data. The present invention relies on sensing document identity/position data, whereas Tabata relies on sensing bar codes which encode HTML source code. Tabata neither teaches nor suggests encoding documents such that a sensing device can determine its position relative to the document. Moreover, the power and versatility of the present invention represents a significant improvement over Tabata. For the reasons, the Applicant submits that the present invention is not obvious in view of the cited prior art.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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